Wild Animal Scramble

Objective:

This activity from *Sharing the Joy of Nature* by Joseph Cornell will involve students in the process of classification. Students will ask for information, take the clues given to them, and analyze the data to determine the identity of the animal that is on the card attached to their back.

Procedures:



Using the list of animals in the **Nametag Activity,** write the name or paste a picture of each animal on an index card. Be sure to use only animals the children might see in the park or near their home. Affix one animal card on the back of each student. At your signal, the students walk around the room asking each other questions to get clues to their own identities. Encourage them to question everyone in the class and to take turns asking questions. Once they have asked a question of a student, that student then asks a question of them. The players can ask as many questions as they want, but they can only ask 3 questions of any one individual. Answers are limited to "yes", "no", "maybe", and "I don't know". Before starting, discuss with the students the kinds of questions that will help to narrow down the possibilities. Sample questions might be: Am I an animal with a backbone? Am I warm-blooded? Am I a mammal, reptile, bird...? Do I have (2,4,6,8) legs? Can I swim? Can I fly? Do I live in the forest? Do I live on prairie? Do I live underground? Am I active at night? Am I a predator? Am I brightly colored?



Encourage the students to be open-minded and to avoid snap judgements. Recommend that they test the validity of new information. Sometimes they may be given wrong information because the person giving an answer may not know the correct information. If information does not seem correct, suggest that they ask another question to clarify the new information. Encourage the students to be concerned with other players to help them guess their animal correctly.



As soon as each student feels certain that they know the identity of their animal, have them write what they think they are on another piece of paper. After every one has finished, have the students sit in a circle. When it is their turn, have them tell the class what they think they are and why. Have the student turn around so every one can see the card. If the student guessed incorrectly compare the information the student used in making his/her decision and make suggestions about why the answer didn't match the card. Use incorrect answers to emphasize the similarities and differences between animals and the classes of animals.